

Stout Paperbark



Scientific name: *Melaleuca preissiana*

Aboriginal name: Moonah (Noongar)



Plant habit



Flower and foliage (Photo: Sian Mawson)

About ...

The Stout Paperbark is native to the south-west of Western Australia. It is found from the Geraldton Sandplains along the Swan Coastal Plain to Esperance.

Melaleuca preissiana was first formally described by Johannes Conrad Schauer in Johann Georg Christian Lehmann's 1844 *Plantae Preissianae* from a specimen collected by James Drummond. Preissiana honours Johann August Ludwig Preiss (1811 – 1883) who collected in WA from 1839 – 1841 upwards of 2,700 plant species.

There are nearly 300 species of melaleucas, commonly known as paperbarks or tea-trees, with the south-west of Western Australia having the greatest density of species.

Melaleuca oil has antibacterial and antiseptic properties.

Aboriginal Uses

- The young leaves were crushed and inhaled to treat headaches and colds.
- The bark was used to wrap food for cooking, as bandages to bind wounds and for sanitary purposes as a natural toilet paper.

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| Family | MYRTACEAE |
| Climate | Temperate |
| Habitat | Sand in swampy, seasonally wet areas on coastal sandplains |
| Form | Shrub or tree 2 - 9 m height White, papery bark |
| Foliage | Thin, pointed leaves Leaves are arranged alternately and are 6–14 mm long |
| Flower | White-cream bottlebrush type flowers on the ends of branches Kambarang to early Bunuru (November to February) Flowers are up to 20 mm in diameter with 7 to 21 groups of flowers in threes. |
| Fruit | Woody capsules, 2.5–3 mm long |



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA